

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended): A method for managing data comprising:  
providing a data element that includes metadata within said data element;  
storing data management information in the metadata, said data management information for managing said data element;  
wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a sequencing rule and a pointer to a management rule;  
storing, within said data element, one or more anchor points to begin selected analysis processes; and  
storing data management rules and processing rules in the metadata.
2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a time stamp.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the management rule comprises one of performance criteria, reliability criteria, availability criteria, and capacity criteria.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a sequencing rule.
7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the sequencing rule comprises one of a logical rule, a time rule, and a structure rule.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a management function for accomplishing management rules.
10. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ~~associating is accomplished by physically storing~~ the metadata is physically stored with the data.
11. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ~~associating is accomplished by storing~~ a pointer is stored with the data that allows one to locate the metadata.
12. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein anchor points are pointers to the current location of the metadata for selected data elements.
13. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein anchor points are copies of the metadata for selected data elements.
14. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein processing rules define the order of selecting data elements for processing.
15. (Original): The method of 1, wherein processing rules define controls for processing management information for each data element.
16. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include sequential processing in priority order.
17. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include indexed processing following specific tree structures first.
18. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include parallel processing.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein parallel processing includes a separate instance of processing for each data element found processed simultaneously.
20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein parallel processing includes a separate instance of processing for each data element found processed concurrently.
21. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein management information comprises a pointer to the location where rules are stored.
22. (Original): A self-defining data element for enhanced data management and recovery, comprising:  
a data portion; and  
a metadata portion,  
wherein the metadata includes management information including management rules and processing rules and one or more anchor points to begin selected analysis processes.
23. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a time stamp.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently amended): The self-defining data element of claim 22 [[24]], wherein the management rule comprises one of performance criteria, reliability criteria, availability criteria, and capacity criteria.
26. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a management rule.
27. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a sequencing rule.

28. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 27, wherein the sequencing rule comprises one of a logical rule, a time rule, and a structure rule.
29. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a sequencing rule.
30. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a management function for accomplishing management rules.